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Contact: Kristi Kelly, JTF CapMed Public Affairs Officer

E-mail: Kristi.Kelly@med.navy.mil

Voice: (301) 319-8844; Fax: (301) 319-8844

NCR MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITIES WILL BE JOINTLY MANNED

BETHESDA, MD. On 15 January 2009, Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England approved the establishment of Joint Commands at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the community hospital at Ft. Belvoir. These new Joint Commands will report to the Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical (JTF CapMed). The new facilities will be staffed as Joint rather than single Service billets with a mix of military medical professionals from the Army, Navy and Air Force.

This unprecedented and transformational decision ushers in a new model for health care delivery in the National Capital Region. While military hospitals have traditionally provided care to beneficiaries from all Services, Military Treatment Facilities have never been staffed with a representative mix of medical personnel from the Service Medical Departments.

This decision is the second in a series of decisions designed to implement an integrated regional approach to military healthcare and achieve unity of effort. The first decision approved by the Deputy Secretary of Defense on 20 October 2008 was the use of a single Department of Defense (DoD) civilian personnel staffing model at National Capital Region Medical Facilities. This means that ultimately current Army, Navy, or Air Force civilian personnel in the region will become a DoD civilian workforce.

VADM John Mateczun, Commander JTF CapMed remarked, "These decisions provide the foundation that will allow us to achieve one of the nation's premier regional healthcare systems for our patients while enhancing the Services' ability to provide fully trained and ready expeditionary medical forces. Our skilled and dedicated civilian workforce will have new opportunities for career development that will be unprecedented."

The plans for implementation of these transformational decisions are in development. The BRAC law requires that the new facilities be fully operational by 15 September 2011. The manning documents for the hospitals have been undergoing spiral development and will now take the form of a Joint Table of Distribution or JTD. A Civilian Human Resources Council has been chartered with representation from the service systems as well as DoD. The JTF Staff and Component Commanders are completing an organizational structure for

the new hospitals that will incorporate best practices and bring together some clinical services in new ways to enhance patient care.

Additional information about transitional changes in the NCR will be posted on www.JTFCAPMED.mil.

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The mission of JTF CAPMED is to implement clinical Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) actions in the National Capital Region and establish an efficient, integrated military health care delivery system that brings the “Best of the Best” together to work in concert on behalf of warriors, retirees, family members and caregivers. The Commander of Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical (CJTF) reports directly to the Secretary of Defense through the Deputy Secretary of Defense.